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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1981 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

You will recall that on 3 April 1981, I conveyed to Your Excellency a copy of the note verbale from my Ministry to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Tripoli requesting the Bureau's assurance that the "decisions and recommendations" of the People's Congresses do not make ratification subject to any conditions. Only such a ratification would comply with the commitments entered into by both sides as shown in your report to the Security Council (S/14256).

To this day this assurance has not been conveyed to the Government of Malta.

This matter has now been pending before the Security Council since August 1980 - a time long enough for people of goodwill to manifest it by their action.

After this lapse of time, so detrimental to Malta's interests, my Government feel that the Security Council should now meet in order to ask Libya officially to comply without further delay with the commitment given by them to your representative, Mr. Diego Cordovez, as long ago as October 1980, to ratify the 1976 Malta/Libya agreement without conditions. Only thus will it be possible to discover whether the inordinate delay in answering the note verbale of 2 April 1981 has been due to the turbulent international conditions in the Mediterranean or to continued procrastination on the part of Libya with a view to depriving Malta of its inherent rights to exploit its natural resources.

I have the honour to request that this letter, which has been copied to the President of the Council, will also be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) E. C. FARRUGIA
Acting Permanent Representative
